



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Gilbert Stuart Day

WHEREAS, Gilbert Stuart was born in Saunderstown, Rhode Island on December 3, 1775; and

WHEREAS, more than one billion one-dollar bills are in circulation, all with a copy of Gilbert Stuart's famous portrait of President Washington printed on the front; and

WHEREAS, copies of Gilbert Stuart's portraits of President Washington have graced U.S. Postage stamps; and Gilbert Stuart was himself honored on a U.S. Postage stamp in 1940; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert Stuart painted over 1000 portraits including those of: King George III of England, George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Abigail Adams, Louisa Adams and Dolly Madison; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island State House features an original full-length Gilbert Stuart portrait of President Washington, located in the State House Reception Room; and


WHEREAS, the Gilbert Stuart Middle School in Providence and Stuart Hall at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. were named for Gilbert Stuart, as are streets in Rhode Island, New Jersey and Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert Stuart created lasting images of President Washington and definitive images of the next four presidents, leaving a proud legacy that secured Gilbert Stuart's lasting fame; and


WHEREAS, Gilbert Stuart introduced a new level of sophistication to the American portrait, achieving convincing likenesses and successful representations of characters through his choice of poise and expression, and was the most sought-after American portraitist of his era, and today is counted among the greatest early American artists; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim December 3, 2012 Gilbert Stuart Day in Rhode Island and urge the state's citizens to recognize the importance of this day.




A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 27th day of April, 2012


Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor